

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 17, 2008

TO: Chief Academic Officers
Montana University System

FROM: Sylvia Moore
Deputy Commissioner of Academic & Student Affairs

RE: Level II Submission Items

The campuses of the Montana University System have proposed new academic programs or changes under the Level II approval process authorized by the Montana Board of Regents. The Level II proposals are being sent to you for your review and approval. If you have concerns about a particular proposal, you should share those concerns with your colleagues at that institution and try to come to some understanding. If you cannot resolve your concerns, you need to notify the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education by December 30, 2008. That notification should be directed to Sarah Elkins, administrative assistant for Academic & Student Affairs. If Sarah does not hear from you, in writing, by December 30, OCHE will assume that the proposals have your approval.

The Level II proposals are as follows:

Montana State University-Bozeman:

- Montana State University-Bozeman asked for permission to offer a Master of Science in Health Sciences [ITEM142-2001-0109 MSU MS HS](#) [ITEM142-2001-0109 sm1 MSU MS HS](#) [ITEM142-2001-0109 sm2](#)
- Montana State University-Bozeman asked for permission to offer a Master of Arts and PhD in American Studies [ITEM142-2002-0109](#) [ITEM142-2002-0109 sm1](#) [ITEM142-2002-0109 sm2](#)

University of Montana-Missoula:

- The University of Montana-Missoula asked for permission to establish a 2+2 engineering program in collaboration with Montana Tech of the University of Montana [ITEM142-1001-0109 UM Engineering](#) [ITEM142-1001-0109 sm1 UM Engineering](#) [ITEM142-1001-0109 sm2](#) [ITEM142-1001-0109 sm3](#)

- The University of Montana-Missoula asked for permission to establish a Biochemistry program and to offer a BS in Biochemistry within this consolidated program [ITEM142-1002-R0109 UM Biochemistry](#) [ITEM142-1002-R0109_sm1 UM Biochemistry](#) [ITEM142-1002-R0109_sm2 UM Biochemistry](#)
- The University of Montana-Missoula asked for permission to create a new minor in Climate Change Studies [ITEM142-1004-R0109 UM Climate Change Minor](#) [ITEM142-1004-R0109_sm1 UM Climate Change Minor](#) [ITEM142-1004-R0109_sm2 UM Climate Change Minor](#)
- The University of Montana-Missoula asked for permission to establish an M.S. in Special Education [ITEM142-1005-R0109 UM MS](#) [ITEM142-1005-R0109_sm1 UM Climate Change Minor](#) [ITEM142-1005-R0109_sm2 UM Climate Change Minor](#)
- The University of Montana-Missoula College of Technology requested permanent approval of the experimentally offered Energy Technology Associate of Applied Science degree program [ITEM142-1003-R0109 UMCOT Energy Tech](#) [ITEM142-1003-R0109_sm1 UMCOT Energy Tech](#) [ITEM142-1003-R0109 UMCOT Energy Tech](#)

Flathead Valley Community College

- Flathead Valley Community College requested permission to establish an A.A.S in Graphic Design [ITEM142-301-R0109](#) [ITEM142-301-R0109_sm1](#) [ITEM142-301-R0109_sm2](#)

January 7, 2009

ITEM 142-2001-R0109 **Master of Science in Health Sciences, MSU-Bozeman**

THAT: The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes Montana State University Bozeman to establish a Master of Science Degree in Health Sciences

EXPLANATION: The proposed Master of Science Degree Program in Health Sciences will be managed through the Division of Health Sciences, Montana State University-Bozeman. The intent of this program is to provide students with a broad-based graduate education that can be applied to any of several career paths in the health care field. This program would support and formalize the educational endeavors of MSU graduates, Post Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate students, and non-certificate students who attend MSU to better prepare for entrance into healthcare-related professional schools. In addition, a Master's degree in Health Sciences, with an emphasis on health-related topics, will also be useful for students seeking direct employment in the health care system and in the state of Montana.

The proposed program will be a Plan B Master of Science degree requiring a minimum of 30 credits from a list of recommended courses and culminating in a scholarly project, to be completed within a calendar year. Briefly, the proposed Master of Science program will effectively be a 1+1 design, where students qualifying for the Post Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate program will enter under a 2-year plan. These students will take the professional school prerequisite courses during the first year, as they currently do, and earn the Certificate. These same students can then declare an emphasis and continue into the second year, pursuing the flexible schedule and broad-reaching course availability to complete the 30 credits necessary for the Master in Science degree. Additionally, students who have a solid science background, and thus do not qualify for the Certificate program, can be eligible to enter directly into the one year Master of Science Program. The prerequisites for the proposed Master of Science degree will be such that we ensure students have a substantial foundation in the basic sciences and in more applied health-related areas.

M O N T A N A B O A R D O F R E G E N T S

LEVEL II REQUEST FORM

Item No.:	142-2001-R0109	Date of Meeting:	January 7, 2009
Institution:	Montana State University-Bozeman		
Program Title:	Master of Science Degree in Health Sciences		

Level II proposals require approval by the Board of Regents.

Level II action requested (check all that apply): Level II proposals entail substantive additions to, alterations in, or termination of programs, structures, or administrative or academic entities typically characterized by the (a) addition, reassignment, or elimination of personnel, facilities, or courses of instruction; (b) rearrangement of budgets, cost centers, funding sources; and (c) changes which by implication could impact other campuses within the Montana University System and community colleges. Board policy 303.1 indicates the curricular proposals in this category:

- 1. Change names of degrees (e.g. from B.A. to B.F.A.)
- 2. Implement a new minor or certificate where there is no major or no option in a major;
- 3. Establish new degrees and add majors to existing degrees;
- 4. Expand/extend approved mission; and
- 5. Any other changes in governance and organization as described in Board of Regents' Policy 218, such as formation, elimination or consolidation of a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory, or similar unit.

Specify Request:

We are proposing a Plan B Master of Science Degree in Health Sciences that will be managed through the Division of Health Sciences, Montana State University-Bozeman. The intent of this program is to provide students with a broad-based graduate education that can be applied to any of several career paths in the health care field. This program would support and formalize the educational endeavors of MSU graduates, Post Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate students, and non-certificate students who attend MSU to better prepare for entrance into healthcare-related professional schools. In addition, a Master's degree in Health Sciences, with an emphasis on health-related topics, will also be useful for students seeking direct employment in the health care system and the state of Montana.

The prerequisites for, and curriculum offered by, the proposed Master of Science degree will be such that we ensure students have a substantial foundation in the basic sciences and in more applied health-related areas.

**MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN HEALTH SCIENCES
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - BOZEMAN**

1. OVERVIEW

The proposed Master of Science Degree Program in Health Sciences will be managed through the Division of Health Sciences, Montana State University-Bozeman. The intent of this program is to provide students with a broad-based graduate education that can be applied to any of several career paths in the health care field. This program would support and formalize the educational endeavors of MSU graduates, Post Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate students, and non-certificate students who attend MSU to better prepare for entrance into healthcare-related professional schools. In addition, a Master's degree in Health Sciences, with an emphasis on health-related topics, will also be useful for students seeking direct employment in the health care system and in the state of Montana.

The proposed program will be a Plan B Master of Science degree requiring a minimum of 30 credits from a list of recommended courses and culminating in a scholarly project, to be completed within a calendar year. Briefly, the proposed Master of Science program will effectively be a 1+1 design, where students qualifying for the Post Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate program will enter under a 2-year plan. These students will take the professional school prerequisite courses during the first year, as they currently do, and earn the Certificate. These same students can then declare an emphasis and continue into the second year, pursuing the flexible schedule and broad-reaching course availability to complete the 30 credits necessary for the Master in Science degree. Additionally, students who have a solid science background, and thus do not qualify for the Certificate program, can be eligible to enter directly into the one year Master of Science Program. The prerequisites for the proposed Master of Science degree will be such that we ensure students have a substantial foundation in the basic sciences and in more applied health-related areas.

2. NEED***a. To what specific need is the institution responding in developing the proposed program?***

The Montana Healthcare Workforce Advisory Committee, at the behest of the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, prepared a comprehensive analysis of the healthcare workforce needs in the state of Montana that was released in Spring 2007¹. The committee documented that 1) healthcare is the largest private sector employer in Montana, 2) much of the state is classified as medically underserved with substantial state and regional professions shortages, and 3) that the need is only going to increase with the aging population and natural attrition of providers. Based on this growing need, the committee made recommendations to implement programs that increase the pipeline of health professionals and to invest in flexible education programs to reach nontraditional students. The proposed Master of Science in Health Sciences program, although a

fundamental educational experience, will be strategically designed to facilitate student entry into the healthcare workforce and health professional schools. This program will facilitate a pipeline of health professionals by preparing students for successful entrance into professional schools, as well as providing an educational foundation on which to compete in the healthcare workforce. In addition, the flexibility, accelerated pace, faculty and administrative support, and design of the program are meant to foster career-changing opportunities for nontraditional students.

b. How will students and any other affected constituencies be served by the proposed program?

In addition to the documented need for health care professionals in the state of Montana, we are also considering demand for the Master's degree from the student perspective. There is a population of students who are re-entering the educational system to better prepare themselves for health professional schools. These students fall under two general categories: 1) students who have a baccalaureate degree in a non-science major and need to acquire substantial science course prerequisites, and 2) students who have a baccalaureate degree in a science/engineering major but who need humanities/social science prerequisite coursework, academic enhancement, or academic refreshment. This Master's degree program is aimed at providing the necessary academic experience for both categories of students.

c. What is the anticipated demand for the program? How was this determined?

The success of the Post Baccalaureate Pre-medical Certificate program has allowed us to document interest in this area of education. We have matriculated 3 classes of Certificate students (ranging from 9 to 17 students/class) and our applicant pool has doubled (from 33 to 64) over those three years. In addition, the office of Health Professions Advising supports approximately 10 non-Certificate Post Bacc students each year. By definition, the Certificate (and non-Certificate) students complete their educational program prior to taking the entrance exam for professional school. These students then have a 'glide' year prior to matriculation in said professional school. Many Certificate students have conveyed an interest in participating in the Master's program in order to spend the 'glide' year in an educationally productive manner. Nearly all students queried would appreciate participation in a degree-seeking program and the opportunity to complete a Master's degree in the process.

Here are examples of student interest.

'PLEASE get this going by next fall so I can get 'er done before medical school. I will volunteer my time to lick envelopes if it helps. This is fantastic that you are considering this kind of program. I was already happy with having so much support for post-bacc pre-med endeavors here at MSU. This degree program would be a dream come true for me.' current non-Certificate student.

'Yes, I think it would be very beneficial to go through this program and come away with something more tangible than a certificate, such as a Master's degree. That would be ideal' current Certificate student.

‘I am extremely interested and wish this would have been available a few years ago as I did not qualify for the certificate program and would really like to be working on an advanced degree! former non-Certificate student.

‘This is FABULOUS and I am really excited about the program. It makes A LOT of sense. I think it would be great if it would incorporate some public health issues the second year- maybe incorporating what's at Billings (their masters of health administration)? Also, and ability to travel for international medical research or something would be REALLY cool!’ current non-Certificate student.

The Post Baccalaureate Pre-medical Certificate program has also provided us with an opportunity to evaluate student expectations of a program. Many of the Certificate applicants are qualified and accepted, but ultimately select other programs that meet their needs more fully. The availability of a Master’s degree option will make MSU more competitive in recruiting highly qualified students to its campus. The Master’s degree program would draw applicants from the region who wish to remain here for their coursework and ultimately return here for their careers, but will also attract out-of-state applicants (the Certificate program currently averages 50% out-of-state students).

The Master’s degree in Health Sciences is an underrepresented program in the region². The model of the proposed Master of Science in Health Sciences is similar in design, but not content, to the Master of Biomedical Sciences offered at Colorado State University³ (see Appendix A). The CSU Master’s degree is a 1-year course-based program that focuses on basic sciences, similar in content to the current MSU Certificate program. The advantages of the proposed Master’s degree at MSU are 1) it offers a health and science related curriculum to students, 2) following a concentrated effort on the basic sciences, and 3) can be completed during a ‘glide’ year. In addition, participating students will benefit from being part of a cohort of students with similar goals, meanwhile being integrated into the full campus environment.

The Certificate program is currently capped at 20 students per year. We similarly will cap the Master’s program to 30 students per year, with an expectation that approximately one-half to two-thirds of the program will consist of continuing Certificate students and the remainder will be incoming 1-year students. The admission process will continue to be selective; therefore, the student cap may not be reached in the first several years of the program.

3. INSTITUTIONAL AND SYSTEM FIT

a. What is the connection between the proposed program and existing programs at the institution?

The Health Sciences Master’s degree program has the potential of being a fully independent degree program, but it also fits well with other programs offered at MSU-Bozeman. The Post Baccalaureate Pre-medical Certificate program consists of ~10-15 students/year that obtain the science pre-requisite courses for health professional school

admission and entrance exam success. Based on the timing of the Certificate program and the health professional school application process, these students (and other non-Certificate Post Bacc students) are non-degree seeking and have a ‘glide’ year following the program before potential matriculation into health professional schools. In addition, students who are currently attending MSU, but apply to health professional schools following their final undergraduate year have a similar ‘glide’ year. Many of the students in both of these categories have expressed an interest in the Master’s degree program. In addition to supplementing the education of students who will matriculate into health professional schools, the Master’s degree program will also improve the work force competitiveness of students who do not pursue health professional school opportunities.

b. Will approval of the proposed program require changes to any existing programs at the institution?

Approval of the Master of Science in Health Sciences degree program will not require changes to any existing programs at MSU-Bozeman.

c. Describe what differentiates this program from other, closely related programs at the institution.

The Master of Science Degree in Health Sciences will dovetail efficiently with the Post Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate program, but the two programs have different priorities. The Certificate program is a ‘career-changing’ program, thereby supporting the educational needs of students with good academic performance but who otherwise lack a science-based foundation. Students in the Certificate program could apply to the Master’s degree program and obtain further health-related educational experiences. Alternatively, students who have met the science-based prerequisites for health professional schools may apply to the Master’s program to enhance and refresh their science-based experience, or to broaden that experience to other health-related and/or patient-centered courses.

d. How does the proposed program serve to advance the strategic goals of the institution?

The goals and objectives of the Master of Science degree in Health Sciences are fully consistent with each topic in the Montana State University mission statement:

- *To provide a challenging and richly diverse learning environment in which the entire university community is fully engaged in supporting student success.*
- *To provide an environment that promotes the exploration, discovery, and dissemination of new knowledge.*
- *To provide a collegial environment for faculty and students in which discovery and learning are closely integrated and highly valued.*
- *To serve the people and communities of Montana by sharing our expertise and collaborating with others to improve the lives and prosperity of Montanans.*

In accomplishing our mission, we remain committed to the wise stewardship of resources through meaningful assessment and public accountability.”

In addition, the program will contribute to the success and implementation of the MSU 5-yr strategic plan categories for Curriculum Development and Partnership and Outreach as described below.

Curriculum: *There will be increased opportunities for interdisciplinary courses and programs and encourage team teaching across all disciplinary boundaries.*

The Health Sciences Master of Science degree will provide the opportunity and encourage students to synthesize material across disciplinary boundaries from molecular and cellular biology to the ethics of patient care. Specifically, the proposed Master's program will facilitate and formalize a multidisciplinary and diverse educational experience. This program will offer students a unique opportunity to integrate their core knowledge in the basic sciences with an applied and person-centered curriculum related to health and health care. In addition, through the multidisciplinary approach of this program, a broader collection of the university community will be engaged in the educational success of the students interested in careers in the health care system.

Partnership and outreach: *The four-campus MSU family will be more integrated in its array of program offerings, research, outreach, and business services.*

Our goal for this program is to fully utilize the expertise that exists within the Montana University system. To that end, we will encourage students to take courses that are part of the University of Montana Master of Public Health program as well as the MSU-Billings Master of Health Administration. The addition of the proposed Health Sciences Master's program complements the current educational offerings throughout the Montana University System.

Furthermore, the Board of Regents defined as part of the 2006-2010 Strategic goals to; *1) Increase the overall educational attainment of Montanans through increased participation, retention, and completion rates in the Montana University System, 2) To assist in the expansion and improvement of the state's economy through the development of high value jobs and the diversification of the economic base, and 3) to improve institutional and system efficiency and effectiveness.*

A program to recruit, better prepare, and assist students to enter the health care workforce in Montana, either directly or following a professional school experience, will address the shortages that currently exist in the relatively high paying market of health care delivery (as defined by the Montana Healthcare Workforce Advisory Committee)¹. This pipeline program will assist and encourage students to obtain their educational foundation in Montana that will, in turn, increase the likelihood that they pursue a career in Montana. Finally, by utilizing the course content that already exists in the Montana University system, this program will broaden the application of existing courses and further enhance the effectiveness of the educational delivery system.

e. Describe the relationship between the proposed program and any similar programs within the Montana University System.

The Master of Science Degree in Health Sciences program does not have significant overlap with any program in the MUS system. In fact, there are a limited number of

similar programs in the region. The design of this program should nicely complement the Master degrees offered at University of Montana (MPH) and MSU-Billings (MHA).

4. Program Details

a. Provide a detailed description of the proposed curriculum.

The admission process will occur with a rolling admission beginning in November, and a deadline of March 31. Prerequisites will include 2 semesters of each: General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physics and Biology. In addition, 1 semester each of Biochemistry, Calculus, Statistics, Psychology and Sociology will be highly recommended for matriculation into the Master's program. Certificate students will be conditionally accepted into the Master's program subject to successful completion of the Certificate program. A minimum GPA of 3.0 will be expected, but this requirement will be flexible to allow underserved and non-traditional students an opportunity to re-enter the educational process. Completion of the Master's program will culminate with an approved scholarly project based on a research experience, a case study, or a literature review. Recommended courses, based on Emphasis, is provided as appendix B. The Director of the Health Professions Advising office (Sheila Nielsen-Preiss, Ph.D.) will serve as the academic advisor for all students and will co-chair the graduate student committees. Currently, a tenure-track faculty member in the Division of Health Sciences and Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience (Cassie Cusick, Ph.D.) has agreed to co-chair the graduate student committees. During the initial 'growth' years of the program, two faculty will be sufficient to chair the committees. As the program reaches maximum enrollment, we plan to recruit the support of additional faculty members that have been identified as instrumental in the educational process of this student cohort. The Health Professions Advising office will continue to support the applications to professional schools for all students carrying 12 or more credits in each of two semesters.

b. Describe the planned implementation of the proposed program, including estimates of numbers of students at each stage.

An anticipated start date for Master in Health Sciences program is Fall 2009. It is estimated that 5 of the current Certificate students would apply for admission. In addition, a small number of non-Certificate students (maximum of 5) may be admitted; therefore, during the first programmatic year we would anticipate a class of approximately 10. At the same time, we would be matriculating the incoming Certificate students (approx 15 students), many of whom will remain for the second year Master's program. In year 2 (2010) approximately half of the Certificate students will continue into the Master's degree, half will finish with the Certificate, and some new students will be admitted to the Master's degree directly. The Master's program will be capped at 30 students, but admission will follow a selective process as described in 4.a., therefore we do not anticipate reaching the cap until the program develops and is nationally promoted. By promoting a diverse curriculum, the impact on any given course or department should be kept to a minimum.

Academic year Program	2009		2010		2011	
	Certificate	Master's	Certificate	Master's	Certificate	Master's
# students	15	5+5	15	7+5	17	10+10

5. Resources – No new resources are being requested for the implementation of this program.

a. Will additional faculty resources be required to implement this program?

Additional faculty resources will not be required for the implementation of this program. The program will utilize established courses.

b. Are other, additional resources required to ensure the success of the proposed program?

Additional resources are not required to ensure the success of the proposed program. The infrastructure already exists to assist this type of student.

6. Assessment

How will the success of the program be measured?

Assessment will be evaluated by several criteria including size and qualifications of the applicant pool as well as the matriculating classes. In addition, we will maintain records of post-graduation placement to evaluate the success of the program at preparing students for matriculation into professional schools and/or into the health care workforce. These types of data analyses are already implemented in the office of Health Professions Advising for the Certificate students and the undergraduate cohort of students pursuing careers in health care.

This program will also maintain the high standards we expect from our students. Therefore, the Master's degree will only be awarded to students who meet the following criteria: conditionally accepted students must complete the Certificate program; students must complete at least 24 approved course credits and maintain a 3.0 GPA; and students must successfully complete a scholarly project.

7. Process Leading to Submission

Describe the process of developing and approving the proposed program.

The Master of Health Sciences program was conceptualized in the Division of Health Sciences and the office of Health Professions Advising. Upon establishing a program and curriculum template, Drs. Linda Hyman, Vice Provost for the Division of Health Sciences, and Sheila Nielsen-Preiss, Director of Health Professions Advising sought advice and input from Dr. Larry Baker, Dean of Health and Human Development, Dr. Paula Lutz, Dean of Letters and Sciences, and Dr. Elizabeth Nichols, Dean of Nursing. Upon the request of the Deans, we communicated with department chairs about the impact on specific courses, including Drs. Tim Dunnagan of HHD and Thom Hughes of CBN. Suggestions from these participants were integrated into the program design prior to submission to the Montana State University Graduate Advisory Council. We continue

to seek input from other department chairs and faculty. In addition, we provided the draft document to the University of Montana's Master in Public Health program and the Montana State University-Billings Master of Health Administration program. Following approval at the University level, the Master in Health Sciences program is being proposed to the Board of Regents.

8. References

1. HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEMAND IN MONTANA
A Report by the Montana Healthcare Workforce Advisory Committee, April 2007
2. <http://services.aamc.org/postbac/>
3. <http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/bms/planB.htm>

January 7, 2009

ITEM 142-2002-R0109

Master of Arts and PhD in American Studies; Montana State University-Bozeman**THAT:**

The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes Montana State University Bozeman to establish Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy Degree Programs at Montana State University-Bozeman.

EXPLANATION:

Montana State University-Bozeman requests permission to establish Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degree programs in American Studies. The graduate program in American Studies will be built on the following foundations: 1) the presence of a distinguished cohort of full-time and associated faculty with research and teaching expertise in the disciplines that provide the backbone for American Studies, namely, Anthropology, Architectural History, Art History, English, History, Museum Studies, Media and Theater Arts, Native American Studies, Political Science, and Sociology; 2) a unique Rocky Mountain setting that provides pioneering research opportunities for graduate students at such sites as the Museum of the Rockies, Renne Library's Department of Special Collections, the Yellowstone National Park archives (a satellite of the National Archives) located in Mammoth, Wyoming, the Montana State Historical Society archives in Helena, and the Cody Institute for Western American Studies at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming; 3) the interdisciplinary resources and faculty strengths of MSU. What will make this program truly world-class is that we will be offering joint graduate degrees with two of Europe's most prestigious American Studies programs at the universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht.

This program has been specifically designed to meet the needs of students who are interested in completing a high-quality graduate level program in American Studies, and who currently go to other institutions because MSU does not offer this degree. The program will prepare students for careers in academic research and teaching, business, journalism, cultural resource management, museums, or government service, especially in the U.S. Department of State (primarily its information and cultural services), the Foreign Service and agencies like the National Park Service. In short, graduate level training in American Studies positions students for multiple career options where depth and breadth of knowledge about American culture is essential. This program will draw top international students in the arts and humanities to MSU, allowing our students to develop international connections that are increasingly necessary for living out the future of the 21st century.

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

LEVEL II REQUEST FORM

Item No.:	142-2002-R0109	Date of Meeting:	January 7, 2009
Institution:	Montana State University-Bozeman		
Program Title:	Master of Arts and PhD in American Studies		

Level II proposals require approval by the Board of Regents.

Level II action requested (check all that apply): Level II proposals entail substantive additions to, alterations in, or termination of programs, structures, or administrative or academic entities typically characterized by the (a) addition, reassignment, or elimination of personnel, facilities, or courses of instruction; (b) rearrangement of budgets, cost centers, funding sources; and (c) changes which by implication could impact other campuses within the Montana University System and community colleges. Board policy 303.1 indicates the curricular proposals in this category:

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- 2. Implement a new minor or certificate where there is no major or no option in a major;
- 3. Establish new degrees and add majors to existing degrees;
- 4. Expand/extend approved mission; and
- 5. Any other changes in governance and organization as described in Board of Regents' Policy 218, such as formation, elimination or consolidation of a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory, or similar unit.

Specify Request:

Montana State University-Bozeman requests permission to establish Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degree programs in American Studies in the University College. The graduate program in American Studies will be built on the following foundations: 1) the presence of a distinguished cohort of full-time and associated faculty with research and teaching expertise in the disciplines that provide the backbone for American Studies, namely, Anthropology, Architectural History, Art History, English, History, Museum Studies, Media and Theater Arts, Native American Studies, Political Science, and Sociology; 2) a unique Rocky Mountain setting that provides pioneering research opportunities for graduate students at such sites as the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Renne Library's Department of Special Collections, the Yellowstone National Park archives (a satellite of the National Archives) located in Mammoth, Wyoming, the Montana State Historical Society archives in Helena, and the Cody Institute for Western American Studies at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming; 3) the interdisciplinary resources and faculty strengths of MSU. What will make this program truly world-class is that we will be offering joint graduate degrees with two of Europe's most prestigious American Studies programs at the universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht.

This program has been specifically designed to meet the needs of students who are interested in completing a high-quality graduate level program in American Studies, and who currently go to other institutions because MSU does not offer a graduate degree program in American Studies. The program will prepare students for careers in academic research and teaching, business, journalism, cultural resource management, museums, or government service, especially in the U.S. Department of State (primarily its information and cultural services), the Foreign Service and agencies like the National Park Service.

**Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy Degree Programs
in American Studies at Montana State University**

1. OVERVIEW

Provide a one paragraph description of the proposed program. Be specific about what degree, major, minor or option is sought.

The purpose of this proposal is to establish Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degree programs in American Studies in University College at Montana State University. The graduate program in American Studies will be built on the following foundations: 1) the presence of a distinguished cohort of full-time and associated faculty with research and teaching expertise in the disciplines that provide the backbone for American Studies, namely, Anthropology, Architectural History, Art History, English, History, Museum Studies, Media and Theater Arts, Native American Studies, Political Science, and Sociology; 2) a unique Rocky Mountain setting that provides pioneering research opportunities for graduate students at such sites as the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Renne Library's Department of Special Collections, the Yellowstone National Park archives (a satellite of the National Archives) located in Mammoth, Wyoming, the Montana State Historical Society archives in Helena, and the Cody Institute for Western American Studies at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming; 3) the interdisciplinary resources and faculty strengths of MSU. What will make this program truly world-class is that we will be offering joint graduate degrees with two of Europe's most prestigious American Studies programs at the universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht.

2. NEED

a. To what specific need is the institution responding in developing the proposed program?

This program has been specifically designed to meet the needs of students who are interested in completing a high-quality graduate level program in American Studies, and who currently go to other institutions because MSU does not offer a graduate degree program in American Studies. Interest in developing an interdisciplinary graduate program in American Studies extends across several departments in the College of Arts and Architecture and in the College of Letters and Science. Student interest in the proposed programs, as expressed especially by students in MSU's new undergraduate program in American Studies, supports the claim that there is a need to respond to student demand for graduate level training.

b. How will students and any other affected constituencies be served by the proposed program?

The program will prepare students for careers in academic research and teaching, business, journalism, cultural resource management, museums, or government service, especially in the U.S. Department of State (primarily its information and cultural services), the Foreign Service and agencies like the National Park Service. American Studies has long been one of the primary training grounds for American Foreign Service officers as well as journalists and business leaders who are charged with making sense of the American cultural mosaic for international audiences. Because of its strong international components, the MSU graduate program in American Studies will better position graduate students in many disciplines to think and work in a globalized political economy. In short, graduate level training in American Studies positions students for multiple career options where depth and breadth of knowledge about American culture is essential.

At universities in many nations around the world, American Studies is the rubric of choice for students seeking a broad understanding of American culture. Most of these students, when they think about doing graduate work at American universities, are drawn to institutions that offer advanced training in American Studies. Without a graduate level American Studies program, MSU is put at a disadvantage in trying to draw top international students in the arts and humanities to this institution. Having such a program will position us to draw students from long-established American Studies programs in Europe and more recently created programs in Asia. The end result will enable our students to develop international connections that are increasingly necessary for living out the future of the 21st century.

c. What is the anticipated demand for the program? How was this determined?

Based on discussions with department heads and advisors at MSU, and with our partner institutions in the Netherlands, it is anticipated that, in its initial stages, the program is likely to enroll fewer than 10 students annually, of whom 2-3 may be dual degree-seeking students from the universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht.

3. INSTITUTIONAL AND SYSTEM FIT

a. What is the connection between the proposed program and existing programs at the institution?

In 2007, MSU introduced an undergraduate program in American Studies. The proposed graduate program will enhance and directly benefit the new undergraduate curriculum. It will also complement the graduate programs in Architecture, Earth Sciences, English, History, Media and Theater Arts, and Native American Studies, providing an opportunity for graduate students in many disciplinary fields to interact and share their research interests.

b. Will approval of the proposed program require changes to any existing programs at the institution? If so, please describe.

The proposed program will not require any significant changes to existing programs at MSU. Students from the program will enroll in graduate level courses in related departments, such as English and History, but the impact on enrollments in any one of those courses is likely to be very small.

c. Describe what differentiates this program from other, closely related programs at the institution (if appropriate).

Because American Studies is the interdisciplinary study of American culture, drawing on the insights of experts in various fields to better understand the rich and sometimes contentious traditions of the American experience, there are many closely related programs, such as Native American Studies. However, while the proposed program will draw on the research and teaching expertise of faculty in other departments, the curriculum itself will be unique, interdisciplinary in both its content and delivery.

d. How does the proposed program serve to advance the strategic goals of the institution?

In keeping with our mission statement, according to which MSU will provide “an environment that promotes the exploration, discovery, and dissemination of new knowledge,” this program promises to provide world-class graduate training at the M.A. and Ph.D. levels in American Studies for students interested in the interdisciplinary study of American culture. On a national level, the American Studies M.A. and Ph.D. degree programs will help define, and very quickly play a leadership role in, the globalization of American Studies. The joint-degree programs with the Universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht will be a mark of distinction for MSU and immediately make the program competitive for training and placing students in careers where deep knowledge of American cultural values is essential. It will draw a wider pool of exceptionally qualified graduate students to MSU, many of whom would serve as graduate teaching assistants across campus, thereby

improving the quality of undergraduate teaching. The program will also help to anchor MSU's continuing efforts to attract international students.

e. Describe the relationship between the proposed program and any similar programs within the Montana University System. In cases of substantial duplication, explain the need for the proposed program at an additional institution. Describe any efforts that were made to collaborate with these similar programs; and if no efforts were made, explain why. If articulation or transfer agreements have been developed for the substantially duplicated programs, please include the agreement(s) as part of the documentation.

Currently, there is no graduate training in American Studies in Montana. Other established programs in the region include Utah State University and the University of Wyoming, which offer M.A. degrees, and the University of Utah and Washington State University, which offer doctoral programs. It is important to emphasize that none of these programs offers our unique emphasis on understanding America, especially the American West, in the world, or joint-degree programs with leading European universities.

It is our understanding that the University of Montana also intends to establish a graduate program in American Studies at some time in the future. Accordingly, in November 2008, faculty and administrators from MSU and UM involved in the planning of these initiatives met to discuss our respective program goals and curricular objectives. The meeting was a very productive one, resulting in the identification of several ways in which we can actively collaborate in offering two first-class, but separate and distinct, graduate programs. Both parties feel that in this case, the two programs will complement each other and attract a greater number of domestic and international students.

4. PROGRAM DETAILS

a. Provide a detailed description of the proposed curriculum. Where possible, present the information in the form intended to appear in the catalog or other publications. NOTE: In the case of two-year degree programs and certificates of applied science, the curriculum should include enough detail to determine if the characteristics set out in Regents' Policy 301.12 have been met.

American Studies examines those values and institutional structures that hold Americans together and, at times, divide them into the kinds of factions that the authors of the *Federalist Papers* so feared when they argued for the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. How America is *constituted* really is the core subject of American Studies.

The major fields for the American Studies graduate program will be:

American Arts. America's visual and performing arts have shaped the substance of American culture from America's founding moments through the present – MSU faculty have expertise in the history of American media, theater, painting, sculpture, and music as well as more specialized mastery of the theoretical underpinnings of these disciplines.

American History. MSU has internationally recognized strengths in American history and its faculty offer courses from America's colonial period through the present. Many of the Department of History and Philosophy's courses are both synchronic and diachronic and therefore serve as perfect points of entry for an

interdisciplinary program like American Studies. Closely related to the discipline of history is the discipline of cultural geography. With its expertise in the history of western settlement patterns, the Earth Sciences Department also affords opportunities for collaboration.

American Literature. It is widely assumed that people around the world understand America only through its electronically mediated exports. At universities around the world, students study American literature to master the metaphoric and syntactic structures of American culture. At MSU, faculty offer both breadth and depth in literary theory and past and present American literature.

American Pluralism. America is often described as a “nation of nations,” comprised of immigrants drawn from the divergent cultures of the globe. Students who focus on American pluralism will draw on the expertise of faculty in Anthropology, Latin American Studies, Native American Studies, Religious Studies, and Women’s Studies.

Public History. Public History is a discipline dedicated to the application of cultural criticism to museums, historical sites, and heritage tourism. The Department of History and Philosophy is home to MSU’s Museum Studies Minor, a thriving “applied studies” program dedicated to preparing students for work in the museum field. At the graduate level, students would have the opportunity to develop research interests and critical theory dedicated to better understanding the role of museums in American culture.

Course of Study

Master of Arts Program

The Master of Arts degree will require completion of 30 credits, of which no more than 9 can be at the 400-level. It will include an all course-work (Plan A) option, and a 10-credit Master’s Thesis (Plan B) option. All students will be required to take two new proposed courses, AMST 5XX/6XX, Methods in American Studies, and AMST 5XX/6XX, Research and Writing in American Studies. Additional course work will be selected from the list of courses below. Qualified students will be allowed to enter the Master of Arts program after completing three years of undergraduate course work (five-year M.A.). Students who enter the program after

receiving their baccalaureate degree would normally require two years of full-time work to complete it. The program will follow all of the guidelines of the Division of Graduate Education.

Doctor of Philosophy Program

The Doctor of Philosophy program will be built upon research and intensive course work that will normally require four years of full-time work. It will be based on students selecting an area of specialization from one of the fields described above (American Arts, American History, American Literature, American Pluralism, Public History). All doctoral students will be required to take two new proposed courses, AMST 5XX/6XX, Methods in American Studies, and AMST 5XX/6XX, Research and Writing in American Studies. Additional coursework will be selected from the list of courses below. Other requirements of the Doctor of Philosophy program will include the following:

- 1) A B.A. or M.A. in American Studies or a closely related field.
- 2) At least two years of full-time study at MSU.
- 3) Completion of a minimum of 60 credit hours post-baccalaureate, of which at least 18 must be dissertation credits. A maximum of 30 credits from a previously earned master's degree (from MSU or another accredited University) may be applied toward the 60 credit minimum required for the doctoral degree.
- 4) Successful completion of a foreign language examination (American Indian languages would be considered as meeting this requirement). In the case of international students whose first language is not English, a score of 550 or higher on the TOEFL will be considered to have satisfied the language requirement.
- 5) Declaration of a major field and a supporting area by the third semester of graduate study.
- 6) The major field will normally require at least 12 credits of coursework. The major fields are: American Arts, American History, American Literature, American Pluralism, and Public History.
- 7) The supporting area will be acquired through three courses (9 credits) and a four-hour written examination administered by the supporting area advisor. The supporting area will be a thematic field, for example, Latin American Studies, Native American Studies, Technology and Culture, or Women's Studies.
- 8) Submission of a "dissertation prospectus" after the fourth semester of full-time graduate study beyond the Master's level.
- 9) Mastery of the major field would be determined by the dissertation; a record of excellence in all courses; submission of a "syllabus requirement," in which the student would design and defend a detailed course syllabus in their major field, or submit another applied exercise, such as the design of a museum exhibit; a four-hour comprehensive written exam; a two-hour oral comprehensive exam.
- 10) Submission of a dissertation that makes an original contribution to the major field of study, and that is defended in a public forum or "dissertation defense."

Minor in American Studies

Graduate students in other programs at MSU may acquire a minor in American Studies by completing AMST 5XX/6XX, Methods in American Studies, AMST 5XX/6XX, Research and Writing in American Studies, and 9 additional credits selected from the from the list of courses below.

Courses

AMST 401, Seminar in American Studies
 AMST 5XX/6XX, Methods in American Studies*
 AMST 5XX/6XX, Research and Writing in American Studies*
 ARCH 425, Western Architectural History
 ART 419, 20th Century Art
 ART 450, Contemporary Art
 ART 463, 19th Century Art
 ENGL 414, Literature of Place
 ENGL 420, Critical Theory
 ENGL 431, Studies in a Major Author

ENGL 441, Studies in Emergent Literatures
 ENGL 510, Studies in Critical Theory and Practice
 ENGL 540, Studies in Theory and Practice of Literary History
 GEOG 401, Historical Geography
 GEOG 503, Settlement Geography
 HIST 402, Trans-Mississippi West
 HIST 403, Gender in the U.S. and Canadian West
 HIST 404, Montana and the West
 HIST 406, Anti-Communism in the Truman-Eisenhower Years
 HIST 408, Gender in America
 HIST 412, Race and Class in America
 HIST 422, History of the American Constitution
 HIST 447, History of the North American Indian
 HIST 455, History of American Technology
 HIST 456, American Thought and Culture
 HIST 457, Museum History
 HIST 464, History of Yellowstone
 HIST 466, U.S. Environmental History
 HIST 502, Public History
 HIST 503, History of America Before 1860
 HIST 505, U.S. History 1860 to Present
 HIST 513, Topics in Social and Cultural History
 HIST 515, The American West
 MTA 504, Film and Documentary Theory
 NAS 405, Gender Issues in Native American Studies
 NAS 415, Native Food Systems
 NAS 425, Pan-Indianism in American Society
 NAS 430, American Indian Education
 NAS 520, Feminist and Gender Theories in Native American Studies
 NAS 521, Tribal Government: Yesterday and Today
 NAS 523, American Indians and Minorities in Higher Education
 NAS 524, Contemporary Issues in American Indian Studies
 NAS 525, Indigenous Philosophies of Sacred Ecologies
 NAS 530, Federal Indian Law and Policy
 NAS 540, Theoretical Positions in Native American Studies
 NAS 541, A Critical Approach to NAS Methodologies
 NAS 560, Native American Literary Traditions
 POLS 409, Constitutional Law and Public Policy
 POLS 415, Montana Local Politics and Policy
 POLS 452, American Public Policy
 SOC 427, Sociological Analysis
 SOC 445, Sociology of Religion

*Proposed new courses

b. Describe the planned implementation of the proposed program, including estimates of numbers of students at each stage.

The program would begin enrolling students in Fall 2009. It is estimated that 5-10 students would be admitted annually.

5. RESOURCES

a. Will additional faculty resources be required to implement this program? If yes, please describe the need and indicate the plan for meeting this need.

No new faculty positions will be required. The reassignment of faculty to provide for the teaching of the two new proposed courses (AMST 5XX/6XX, Methods in American Studies, and AMST 5XX/6XX, Research and Writing in American Studies) will be coordinated by University College.

b. Are other, additional resources required to ensure the success of the proposed program? If yes, please describe the need and indicate the plan for meeting this need.

Library resources are adequate to support graduate level work in American Studies. Many professional journals are now available online, through JSTOR and WorldCAT. Special Collections services, the archives in Yellowstone National Park, and the materials collections housed at the Museum of the Rockies and the Cody Institute for Western American Studies at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming will afford students the opportunity to carry out meaningful original research.

The impact of the program on facilities will be marginal. Shared office space for GTA's may be available through the Humanities Institute.

6. ASSESSMENT

How will the success of the program be measured?

The primary responsibility for assessment of this program will lie with the Program Director. Formative and summative data will be gathered from the two new proposed courses, AMST 5XX/6XX, Methods in American Studies, and AMST 5XX/6XX, Research and Writing in American Studies. The data will be used to guide programmatic changes (i.e., changes in the curriculum that will affect all future students).

7. PROCESS LEADING TO SUBMISSION

Describe the process of developing and approving the proposed program. Indicate, where appropriate, involvement by faculty, students, community members, potential employers, accrediting agencies, etc.

Development of this proposal was spearheaded by two faculty members, David Cherry, Professor of History and Director of the American Studies Program, and Robert Rydell, Professor of History and Director of the Humanities Institute. They developed a written proposal, which was widely circulated among faculty and department heads in the College of Arts and Architecture and the College of Letters and Science. A revised version of the proposal was then submitted to the Graduate Council, which approved it, unanimously, in April 2008.

ITEM 142-1001-R0109

Approval to Create a 2+2 Engineering Program

THAT:

The University of Montana – Missoula proposes to establish a 2+2 engineering program in collaboration with Montana Tech of the University of Montana to better serve the needs of the students who are currently participating in the Pre-Engineering Program at the University of Montana – Missoula. Students in the Pre-Engineering Program come to UM with the intention of spending two years at UM before transferring to an engineering school. Many of these students make the choice to start at UM for financial reasons. Establishing this 2+2 Program will ease the transfer process for these students.

EXPLANATION:

Suggested courses of study have been developed for all of the engineering degrees offered by Montana Tech (Electrical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, General Engineering, Geological Engineering, Geophysical Engineering, Metallurgical & Materials Engineering, Mining Engineering, and Petroleum Engineering). In this program students would take the first two years of courses at the University of Montana – Missoula and the last two years of courses at Montana Tech in Butte.

ATTACHMENTS:

Programs of Study
Letter of support

M O N T A N A B O A R D O F R E G E N T S
LEVEL II REQUEST FORM

Item No.:	142-1001-R0109	Date of Meeting:	January 7-8, 2009
Institution:	The University of Montana - Missoula		
Program Title:	2+2 Engineering Program		

Level II proposals require approval by the Board of Regents.

Level II action requested (check all that apply): Level II proposals entail substantive additions to, alterations in, or termination of programs, structures, or administrative or academic entities typically characterized by the (a) addition, reassignment, or elimination of personnel, facilities, or courses of instruction; (b) rearrangement of budgets, cost centers, funding sources; and (c) changes which by implication could impact other campuses within the Montana University System and community colleges. Board policy 303.1 indicates the curricular proposals in this category:

- 1. Change names of degrees (e.g. from B.A. to B.F.A.)
- 2. Implement a new minor or certificate where there is no major or no option in a major;
- 3. Establish new degrees and add majors to existing degrees;
- 4. Expand/extend approved mission; and
- 5. Any other changes in governance and organization as described in Board of Regents' Policy 218, such as formation, elimination or consolidation of a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory, or similar unit.

Specify Request:

The University of Montana – Missoula proposes to establish a 2+2 engineering program in collaboration with Montana Tech of the University of Montana. Suggested courses of study have been developed for all of the engineering degrees offered by Montana Tech (Electrical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, General Engineering, Geological Engineering, Geophysical Engineering, Metallurgical & Materials Engineering, Mining Engineering, and Petroleum Engineering). In this program students would take the first two years of courses at the University of Montana – Missoula and the last two years of courses at Montana Tech in Butte.

